



SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS 2023 YOUNG ATHLETES FACT SHEET

SOILL Rev. 8/22/22

EVENT DATES:

(Contact your Region Director for Region specific registration deadlines)

STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT – MARCH 10-12, 2023

Illinois State University, Normal

SUMMER GAMES – JUNE 9-11, 2023

Illinois State University, Normal

STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT – SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2023

Hickory Point Golf Course, Forsyth-Decatur

STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT – SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2023

Lincoln Sports Complex, Springfield

FALL GAMES – OCTOBER 21-22, 2023 (Tentative)

Harlem High School, Macheseny Park (Rockford Area)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Young Athletes program is an innovative sports play program for children ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities, designed to introduce them into the world of sports. The benefits to this program have been proven worldwide. First and foremost, these activities will help the children improve physically, cognitively, and socially. This program will also raise awareness of the Special Olympics program and serve as an introduction to the resources and support available within Special Olympics Illinois.

This program is designed to address two specific levels of play. Level 1 includes physical activities focused on developing fundamental motor tracking and eye-hand coordination. Level 2 concentrates on the application of these physical activities through a sports skills activity program and developing skills consistent with Special Olympics sports play. The activities will consist of balance, walking & running, jumping, trapping & catching, throwing, striking, kicking, and advanced skills.

PARTICIPATION:

Agencies and individuals interested in participating in the Young Athletes Program must be approved and registered through Special Olympics Illinois Staff.

TRANSITION EXHIBITONS:

Continuing opportunities will be offered to young athletes ages 6-7, with an intellectual disability, in preparation for participation in the traditional Special Olympics program. Young Athletes participating in transition exhibitions must have valid MedApp/Medical and Athlete Consent forms on file. These events are participation events and are not considered competition events. All athletes participating in these events will receive a participation ribbon, regardless of what place they finish.

At the State level, Transition Exhibitions will be offered in Athletics (50 Meter Run and Tennis Ball Throw), Basketball (Individual Skills), Soccer (Individual Skills), Softball (Individual Skills) and Golf (Individual Skills). Regions may also offer transition events for 6-7 year olds.

Athletes can participate in one sport per state event. Registration is limited to the first 25 individuals with completed forms.

SKILL ADAPTATIONS FOR TRANSITION EXHIBITIONS

State Basketball

Adaptations:

Spot Shot – Athletes will use a 6 foot basket for the Spot Shot.

Target Pass – Athletes will pass from a line 1.4m from the wall.

State Golf

Adaptations:

Iron Shot/Wood Shot – Volunteers may tee up the ball for the Young Athlete.

Fall Games

Adaptations:

Volleyball Skills – Athletes will utilize a modified volleyball to complete the skills stations.

For more information on participating in these continuing opportunities, please contact the Assistant Director of Youth Initiatives.

LODGING:

Lodging for State Basketball, State Golf, State Softball and Fall Games is not provided by Special Olympics Illinois. Registered coaches and Young Athletes will be sent local hotel information.

Lodging for registered coaches and athletes at Summer Games will be provided by Special Olympics Illinois. Lodging is in ISU Residence Halls. Residence Hall rooms all have single beds, but the number of beds per room varies (singles, doubles, triples, quads). Young Athletes have the option to stay in the provided housing with ONE parent/guardian. The parent/guardian staying with the Young Athlete must have a valid Class A form on file with Special Olympics Illinois prior to the tournament start. Blocks of rooms at a nearby hotel will be reserved as an alternate to staying in the ISU Residence Halls. Hotel rooms are not provided by Special Olympics Illinois and are the responsibility of the attending individual.

Please note when staying in provided housing, it is possible that Young Athletes and their one parent/guardian may share a room with other Young Athletes and parents/guardians.

COACHING:

A 1:1 coaching ratio is allowed for all Young Athletes participating in State events. Registered coaches must have a valid Class A form on file.

MEALS:

Registered Young Athletes and one parent will be provided with the same meal ticket as traditional Special Olympics athletes.

For more information of the Young Athletes program or how to get involved, please contact:

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